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**REMARKS**

Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1, 6-10, and 12 are pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 12 are the independent claims.

Claims 1 and 12 have been amended. No new matter is believed to have been added.

Claims 1, 6, and 8-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Epixtech in view of Saito et al. (JP 11-110441) and the Google Groups Printout. Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Epixtech in view of Saito et al. and Google Groups Printout, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,078,897 to Rubin et al. All rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, "loan reserving means for registering a book in said book stock information management means as a loan reserved book when a request for loan reserving is entered", that "said book stock information management means registers an information whether the book is collated or not to said book stock information based on said ordering information and said collation information", and that "said loan reserving means registers a book in said book stock information management means as a loan reserved and unavailable book when the requested book is not yet delivered".

Independent claim 12 recites similar features in a computer-readable form.

Applicants respectfully submit that the asserted combinations of the cited art do not disclose at least the aforementioned features of the pending independent claims. Consequently, without conceding the propriety of the asserted combinations, it is respectfully submitted that the asserted combinations of these citations are likewise deficient.

The Office Action acknowledges that neither the primary citation to Epixtech nor the secondary citation to Saito et al. teaches or suggests a loan reserving means capable of reserving a book that is ordered but not yet delivered. Nonetheless, the Office Action contends that the Google Groups Printout provides the necessary disclosure, and asserts that it would have been obvious to modify the apparatus and software of Epixtech in order to allow patrons to browse information about upcoming titles and receive them soon after they come out. This contention is respectfully traversed.

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Applicants respectfully submit that the Google Groups Printout merely discusses preferences for purchasing books or borrowing books from a library. The Google Groups Printout merely discusses that a user can browse bookstores or search the Internet to determine release dates and titles of upcoming books. Once a user has determined the titles of these upcoming books, a user must log into a library computer system to place holds on desired titles.

Independent claim 1, however, recites, *inter alia*, "loan reserving means for registering a book in said book stock information management means as a loan reserved book when a request for loan reserving is entered", that "said book stock information management means registers an information whether the book is collated or not to said book stock information based on said ordering information and said collation information", and that "said loan reserving means registers a book in said book stock information management means as a loan reserved and unavailable book when the requested book is not yet delivered". Independent claim 12 recites similar features. Applicants respectfully submit that Google Groups Printout fails to teach or suggest at least the aforementioned features.

Further, Applicants respectfully submit that neither Epixtech nor Saito et al. adds anything to the teachings or suggestions of the Google Groups Printout that remedies the aforementioned deficiencies. Thus, for at least these reasons, the combination of Epixtech, Saito et al. and the Google Groups Printout does not obviate the aforementioned features.

Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of independent claims 1 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103 are respectfully requested.

Regarding the rejection of claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), Rubin et al. relates to a method and apparatus for optimizing orders for goods or services to increase a discount. Applicants respectfully submit that Rubin et al. fails to add anything that would remedy the aforementioned deficiencies of the combination of Epixtech, Saito et al., and the Google Groups Printout.

Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of dependent claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103 is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the independent claims patentably define the present invention over the citations of record. Further, the dependent claims should also be allowable for the same reasons as their respective base claims and further due to the additional features that they recite. Separate and individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

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Applicants believe that this Amendment After Final Rejection clearly places the subject application in condition for allowance. This Amendment was not earlier presented because Applicants believed that the prior Amendment placed the subject application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of the instant Amendment as an earnest attempt to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues is requested under 37 C.F.R. §1.116.

Applicants believe that the present Amendment is responsive to each of the points raised by the Examiner in the Official Action. However, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to such matters.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

If there are any additional fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge and/or credit the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS &amp; HALSEY LLP

Date:

14 August 2006

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P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450  
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STAAS &amp; HALSEY

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